

**eXplain it**  
**(Pre-Lent 2)**

**Matthew 13:1-23/Luke 8:4-15**  
**(the Parable of the Sower)**

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**parable**

**“to set alongside”**  
**(comparison)**

**the Kingdom of God illustrated**

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**Jesus tells a story and then**  
**gives the meaning**

**Scripture interprets the Scripture**

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**Matthew 13:3-9**

**The story ...**

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**Matthew 13:1-3: That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.**

**3 Then he told them many things in parables, saying:**

**"A farmer went out to sow his seed ..."**

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**A farmer went out to sow his seed ...**

**seed**

**soil**

**birds, the elements, thorns**

**crop**

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**Matthew 13:3-ff:** "A farmer went out to sow his seed. 4 As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up.

5 Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. 6 But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. (NIV)

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**Matthew 13:7-ff:** 7 Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants.

8 Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.

9 He who has ears, let him hear."  
(NIV)

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**Matthew 13:9:**  
"He who has ears, let him hear."

"hear" = more than listen  
pay attention, take it to heart and do

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**What does this mean?**

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**Matthew 13:18-23**  
**The meaning of the story ...**

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**Matthew 13:18-ff: 18 "Listen then to what the parable of the sower means:**

**19 When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is the seed sown along the path.**  
**(NIV)**

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**Matthew 13:20-ff: 20** The one who received the seed that fell on rocky places is the man who hears the word and at once receives it with joy.  
**21** But since he has no root, he lasts only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, he quickly falls away.  
**22** The one who received the seed that fell among the thorns is the man who hears the word, but the worries of this life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke it, making it unfruitful. (NIV)

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**Matthew 13:23-ff: 23** But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. He produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.” (NIV)

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**seed = the Seed, the Word of God**

**soil = the human heart**

**birds, the elements, thorns = the devil, the world and our own sinful flesh**

**crop = the “fruits” of Christ and the Spirit**

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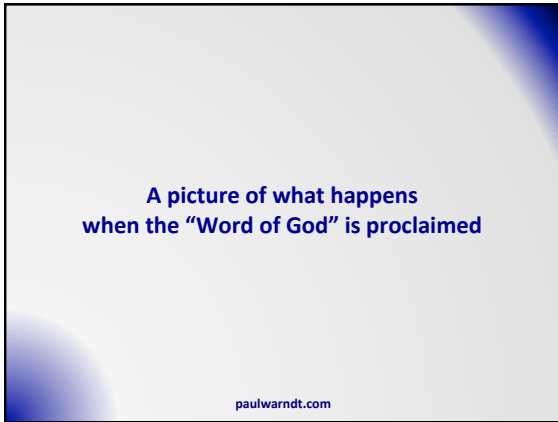
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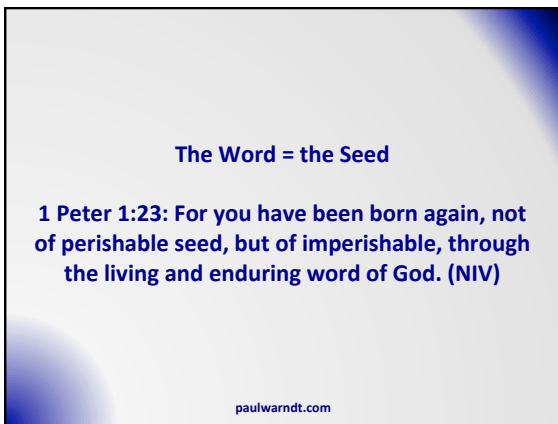
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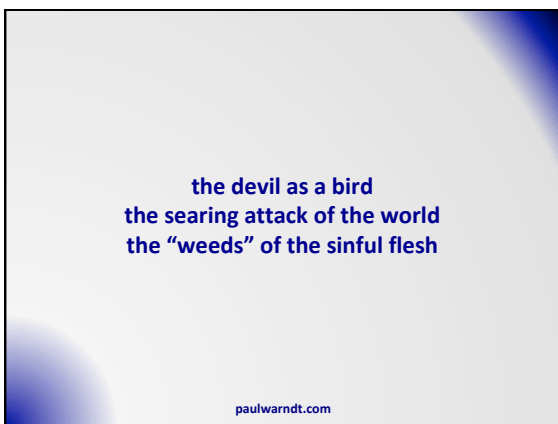
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sowing and reaping

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Galatians 5:19-ff: The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; 20 idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions 21 and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. (NIV)

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Galatians 5:19-ff: 22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. (NIV)

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**the Gardner  
the Lord of the Harvest**

**ploughs and softens the soil  
sows the Seed  
sends the rain and sun  
chases off the birds  
tends and cultivates  
gives the harvest**

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**Isaiah 55:10-13: 10 As the rain and the snow  
come down from heaven, and do not return to it  
without watering the earth and making it bud  
and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower  
and bread for the eater, 11 so is my word that  
goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me  
empty, but will accomplish what I desire and  
achieve the purpose for which I sent it. (NIV)**

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**"A farmer went out to sow his seed ...  
He who has ears, let him hear."**

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